GCC Awarded
2013 Leading by Example Award
Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs

"The Leading by Example Awards recognize outstanding efforts among individuals, Commonwealth agencies, public higher education institutions, and municipalities that have established and implemented policies and programs resulting in significant and demonstrable energy and environmental benefits." - Greenfield Community College

GCC is a recipient of the 2013 Leading by Example Award presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs for its significant and demonstrable energy and environmental benefits.

In an era known for many talented writers, there is a new venue for local writers to be published and for everyone to read their work. Plum, GCC’s online literary journal, launched last spring and will publish its second issue in December. In keeping with GCC’s mission of serving the community, Plum publishes writing by GCC student writers alongside new, emerging, and established writers from western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. The inaugural issue of Plum included poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and reviews by GCC students, faculty, and area writers, as well as an interview with Northampton’s Forbes Library Writer in Residence Susan Stinson. December’s issue will feature an interview with local novelist Hodack柄 Berry.

Susan Stinson applauds Plum, saying, “Being interviewed by Erik Risinger was such a great opportunity for our students to see what can be, and no place to display the writing that students create. My message is to write and submit to Plum. Do it! Plum showcases local talent and brings like-minded people together to support and inspire one another. Publish locally!”

Plum does more than publish great local writing; it also provides meaningful hands-on journal editing and publishing for the students on the journal’s editorial board. Student editors study with faculty advisor Maria Williams-Rawl, and earn credit for their Plum work. Senior Editor Amy Connolly, in her second semester working on Plum, is joined by April Albrecht, Daniel D’errico, and Blake Robinson on the board. The student editors evaluate all submissions based on three criteria: clear voice, fearless honesty, and unique perspective.

Senior Editor Albrecht, an English major who lives in Amherst, said, “Being in the Editor role has changed my writing and brought me to focus on what works and what doesn’t work in a piece of writing. You can see it all go on at GCC, but we have no place to display the writing that students create. My message is to write and submit to Plum. Do it! Plum showcases local talent and brings like-minded people together to support and inspire one another. Publish locally!”

Plum’s mission is to give GCC’s Tasty Treat for the Whole Community

Maria Williams-Rawl teaches writing and literature at GCC and is the founder/editor of ShapeNation Press. Commenting on Plum, Maria said, “The student board members are very critical readers, with high standards for what we publish. I hope members of our community see Plum as a quality literary journal where they can exchange stories, perspectives, and experiences.”

Recognizing the value of Plum, GCC Dean of Humanities Leo Hwang said, "Plum is a fantastic opportunity for the GCC community to create something that engages a leadership beyond the classroom in a specific peer group. This is about civic engagement, learning real world editing, and critical reading skills, and giving students access to a venue to share their work with the world. Plum helps writers’ voices be heard in our community and beyond.”

Plum is online at http://plum.gc.mass.edu/.

Plum editors’ Facebook page is at https://www.facebook.com/gccplum.

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